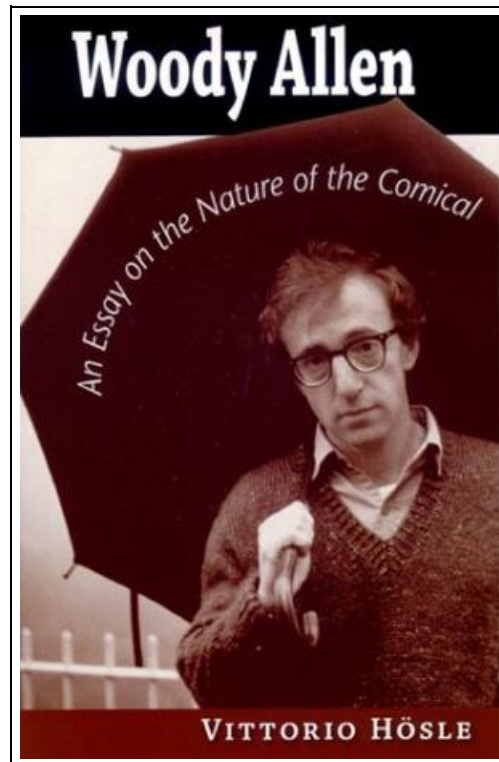


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WOODY ALLEN: AN ESSAY ON THE NATURE OF THE COMICAL (PAPERBACK)



University of Notre Dame Press, United States, 2007. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book. In this extended essay, Vittorio Hosle develops a theory of the comical and applies it to interpret both the recurrent personae played by Woody Allen, the actor and the philosophical issues addressed by Woody Allen, the director in his films. Taking Henri Bergson s analysis of laughter as a starting point, Hosle integrates aspects of other theories of laughter to construct his own more finely-articulated and expanded model. With this theory in hand, Hosle discusses the incongruity in the characters played by Woody Allen and describes how these personae are realized in his work. Hosle focuses on the philosophical issues in Allen s major films by exploring the identity problem in *Play It Again* , *Sam and Zelig* , the shortcomings of the positivist concept of reality in *A Midsummer Night s Sex Comedy* , the relation between reality and art in *The Purple Rose of Cairo* , the objective validity of morality in *Crimes and Misdemeanors* , the power of evil in *Shadows and Fog* , and the relation between art and morality in *Bullets over Broadway* . He cites Allen s virtuosic reinterpretation of older forms of expression and his integration of the fantastic into the comic universe - elements like the giant breasts, anxious sperm, extraterrestrials, ghosts, and magicians that populate his movies - as formal moves akin to those of Aristophanes. Both an overview of Allen s work and a philosophical analysis of laughter, Hosle s study demonstrates why Allen s films have more to offer us - morally, philosophically, and artistically - than just a few laughs.



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